

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a privacy management service in a telephone system ~~by using originating calls to build a database of acceptable incoming calls~~, said method comprising:

initiating ~~detecting~~ a telephone call from a subscriber telephone number to a called party telephone number, wherein said initiating is performed by a subscriber;

determining if said called party telephone number is located in a subscriber database ~~of telephone numbers~~ corresponding to said subscriber telephone number;

adding said called party telephone number to said subscriber database in response to said determining resulting in not locating said called party telephone number in said subscriber database, wherein incoming telephone calls to said subscriber telephone number from caller party telephone numbers located in the subscriber database are directly connected to the subscriber telephone number and incoming calls to said subscriber telephone number from caller party telephone numbers not located in the subscriber database are transmitted to a screening application; and

connecting said telephone call between said subscriber telephone number and said called party telephone number.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said determining includes:

transmitting an inquiry transaction to said subscriber database, said inquiry transaction including said subscriber telephone number and said called party telephone number; and

receiving a response to said inquiry transaction responsive to said inquiry.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said transmitting an inquiry transaction is via a signaling transfer point to a service control point and said service control point is in communication with said subscriber database.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said communication is via a network.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said adding is performed via a signaling transfer point and a service control point in communication with said subscriber database.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein said screening application comprises:

transmitting a request for a caller at a caller party telephone number ~~said caller to provide identification data~~ in response to receiving a second telephone call at the subscriber telephone number from the caller; and

presenting options to ~~as~~ said subscriber at the subscriber telephone number in response to receipt of said identification data.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said options include an always answer option performed in response to a selection by said subscriber, wherein performing said always answer option includes:

adding said caller telephone number to said subscriber database; and

connecting said second telephone call between said subscriber telephone number and said caller telephone number.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a privacy management service by using originating calls to build a database of acceptable incoming calls in a telephone system having a service switching point in communication with a subscriber telephone having a subscriber telephone number, and a service control point in communication with the service switching point, said system comprising:

an off-hook delay trigger provisioned on the subscriber line at the service switching point for triggering a query to the service control point whenever a telephone call is made from the subscriber telephone number to a called party number is detected;

a subscriber database of telephone numbers in communication with the service control point; and

a service package application on the service control point for responding to the query by determining whether the called party number is located in the subscriber database, wherein:

when the called party number is not located in the subscriber database, the service package application adds the called party number to the subscriber database and routes the telephone call to the called party number, wherein incoming telephone calls to said subscriber telephone number from caller party telephone numbers located in the subscriber database are directly connected to the subscriber telephone number and incoming calls to said subscriber telephone number from caller party telephone numbers not located in the subscriber database are transmitted to a screening application; and

when the called party number is located in the subscriber database, the service package application routes the call to the called party number.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein said subscriber database is in communication with the service control point via a network.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the network is the Internet.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the network is TCP/IP.

13. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein said subscriber database is in direct communication with said service control point.

14. (Original) The system of claim 9 further comprising a storage device, wherein said subscriber database is located on said storage device.

15. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein said subscriber database is a relational database.

16. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein said subscriber database is in communication with the service control point via a server in communication with a network.

17. (Original) The system of claim 9 further comprising a user system in communication with said subscriber database for updating said subscriber database.

18. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein said user system is in communication with said subscriber database via a network.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for providing a privacy management service in a telephone system by using originating calls to build a database of acceptable incoming calls, the computer program product comprising:

a storage medium readable by a processing circuit and storing instructions for execution by the processing circuit for performing a method comprising:

initiating detecting a telephone call from a subscriber telephone number to a called party telephone number, wherein said initiating is performed by a subscriber;

determining if said called party telephone number is located in a subscriber database of telephone numbers corresponding to said subscriber telephone number;

adding said called party telephone number to said subscriber database in response to said determining resulting in not locating said called party telephone number in said subscriber database, wherein incoming telephone calls to said subscriber telephone number from caller party telephone numbers located in the subscriber database are directly connected to the subscriber telephone number and incoming calls to said subscriber telephone number from caller party telephone numbers not located in the subscriber database are transmitted to a screening application; and

connecting said telephone call between said subscriber telephone number and said called party telephone number.